obtain environmental clearance from the Government for the project, if so, what action is being taken for the gross violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) Yes, Sir, stage I clearnace under Forest (conservation Act 1980 for diversion of 8.15 ha. of forest land for 30 M.W. Rathong Chu Power Project was issued by this Ministry on 27th November, 1991. Subsequently environmental clearance to this project was accorded by this Ministry on 10th December, 1982. Final approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 was issued in September, 1995.

(b) The State Government has informed that 64 trees and 124 Poles, have been felled while handing over 7.15 ha. of forest land for the project, after realising Rs. 3,07,585 as crop compensation of the forest produce.

Lack of Universities in Rural Areas of Tamil Nadu

3018. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to reduce funding for university education;

(b) whether it is a fact that rural areas in Tamil Nadu and other States are without sufficient universities;

(c) if so, the reasons for this neglect;

(d) whether joint universities between States and Central Govenrment would be considered; and

(e) if not, the steps Government propose to take to meet the challenge of higher education requirements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) It is for the Government of Tamil Nadu and other State Govenments to take a view in the matter of establishing universities. It may be stated, however, that in India the main delivery system of higher education are colleges. This being the case, the issue in the matter of extension of higher education facilicity in any area is not so much establishment of universities as the number and distribution of colleges.

(d) No such proposal is currently under consideration.

(e) In addition to the university & college systems, arrangements exist for provision of higher education through open universities, Correspondence Course Institutions and the non collegiate education Boards to cater to the requirements of those unable to attend universities and colleges.

Courses Introduced by Delhi University

3019. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some courses like Bachelor of Business Economics, Business Studies, Business Administration and Master of Business Economics have been introduced in North Campus and South Campus of Delhi University;

(b) if so, the details thereof with eligibilities prescribed for each course and admission period prescribed for each;

(c) whether some placement have been made for successful candidates by the University; and

(d) if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Use of discretionary quota of STD/ISD booths at railway stations

3020. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have imposed a ban on the discretionary quota for the ministers;

(b) if so, the number of times the Railway Minister has exercised his option for discretionary quota in regard to allotment of STD/ISD booths and other stalls on Railway Stations; and

(c) the ceiteria, norms and the policy being followed by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) The Government have issued directives to formulate rules and guidelines for out of turn allotment.

(b) and (c) As per the extant policy, allotment of space for installation of STD/ISD/PCO Booth is allotted only to physically handicapped persons who are handicapped to the extent of 40% and above. Amongst them, perference is given to SC,ST and weaker sections of the society. Applications are called for as and when need is felt by the railway. Orders have been issued from the Ministry of Railways for allotment of space for seeting up of STD/ISD/PCO Booth in one case as a special case since June' 96. No special allotment of catering/vending stalls has been made by the Ministry since June'96.

Selling of Nonpatented Genetic Resources

3021. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister for ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state·

(a) whether Government are regulating the trade in biological material as per the norms of the Convention on Biological diversity;

(b) whether a USA based company has been allowed to import tissue culture developed medical and aromatic plants in test tube from India; and

(c) the reasons for selling out genetic resources without patenting the plants first?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) The Government is actively considering an enforceable instrument for regulating the transfer of biological material from the country in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Clearance of Floating Hotel Project In Mumbai

3022. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have cleared the floating hotel project in Mumbai; and

(b) if so, how do Government propose to ensure that the construction of hotel-cum-commercial complex will not flout Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS: (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) The Government has not accorded environmental clearance to the project.

(b) Does not arise.